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Serial No.: 08/486,069

Filed: June 7, 1995

Page 15 Amendment [Following Office Action of July 1, 2003] - **December 31, 2003**

AMENDMENTS

In the Abstract:

Please delete the existing Abstract and replace it with the following.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Methods of non-radioactively detecting, sequencing or characterizing nucleic acids of interest. The methods employ nucleotides that have been labeled with one or more non-radioactive labels. The labeled nucleotides can be incorporated within, or onto a terminus of, a nucleic acid fragment without undermining the ability of the fragment to hybridize. A sequencing gel may be used to separate or resolve nucleic acid fragments comprising one or more of the labeled nucleotides.